

Security Information
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **Thailand**
SUBJECT **Medical Research/Local Manufacture and Distribution
of Medicines/Hospitals in Bangkok**
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Medical education in Thailand has been confined to academic training of doctors and has only recently awakened to the need for research. About five years ago, the government established the Siamese Medical Research Council as a government agency to sponsor all phases of medical research. There are no full time employees and the only work done is carried on by physicians on a part time basis. Equipment available in hospitals is very limited and there are no centrifuges or pressure chambers for physiological testing.
2. The research work done is primarily in pharmacology for the purpose of classifying and refining the indigenous herbs found locally. Funds, trained personnel, and facilities are all lacking for carrying on any important work.
3. Military medical units are quite small and have little contact with medical institutions. [redacted], they have no hospital ships, trains, or planes, or equipment that could be converted to these uses. The only equipment of this nature [redacted] are Red Cross mobile units.
4. [redacted]
5. Over 80 per cent of medical supplies for both military and civilian use are imported. [redacted] The government maintains a Pharmacology Department that makes powders, ampules, capsules, etc from drugs imported in bulk. There are no pharmaceutical houses as exist in the US. The drugs are warehoused largely in Bangkok and distributed by the government to the hospital and out-patient clinics, 95 per cent of which are government owned.
6. Vaccines and sera for cholera, typhoid, typhoid A and B, and smallpox are made in the Pasteur Institute in Bangkok. This government owned institution employs about 20 people and can supply Thailand's normal requirements.

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